NHS baseball ready for new season

by Mike Middleton

When George Allen was the Head Coach of the Washington Redskins, his critics blasted him when he went after seasoned players. Allen's retort, "The future is now!"

The same situation does not really apply to the Northern High School Baseball Team, but with so many seniors on the squad it might be easily said, "The future is now!"

Coach Wayne Smith is carrying a squad of fifteen players, of this number nine are seniors, three are juniors, and three are sophomores. The Polar Bears certainly have experience on their side. Here are the players and their positions on this year's team:

Pitch Base-Kevin Cashman (Sr.) and Doug Krauss (Sr.)
Second Base-Chris Garner (Sr.)
Shortstop-Dylan Meerwitch (Sr.) and Joel Yohn (Soph.)
Third Base-Greg Myers (Jr.) and Jim Noll (Sr.)
Left Field-Scott Aeppli (Sr.) and Mike Weaver (Jr.)
Center Field-Tony Klaus (Jr.) and Todd Schaeffer (Soph.)
Right Field-Brian Newman (Sr.) and Tom Renard (Sr.)
Catcher-Dave Staton (Sr.) and Joel Cook (Soph.)

The pitching department will be handled by right-handers Newman, Meerwitch, and Staton, with left-hander Scott Aeppli.

If you look at this squad, the one item that jumps out at you is the fact that the pitching is a little on the thin side. That can really hurt if the Bears run into bad weather and have to reschedule many games. Northern will certainly look at the seniors, especially Aeppli, Meerwitch, Newman, and Staton to provide the needed on field leadership. Just how successful the Polar Bears will be could depend on this item.

The Mid-Penn Division III Baseball Conference just might be very interesting to watch. As the season gets underway, Shippensburg and West Perry seem like the teams to watch as potential title-winners. The Greyhounds have a host of quality experienced players, while the Mustangs have Larry Frederick. The Dean of Division III coaches, Frederick seems to weave magic on the other side of the mountain and come up with very competitive teams. Susquenita could make some noise in the Mid-Penn, but it is difficult to really assess their chances. Big Spring might also cast their shadow in the title chase, as the Bulldogs usually field a very scrappy squad. There is little doubt that Camp Hill and Boiling Springs just do not have the horses to contend as strongly, but should not be taken for granted. Trinity High School enters the Mid-Penn Baseball wars for the first time, and will need to be watched to see just what kind of talent they possess.

That brings us to Northern, and just what their chances are like in this division. This one is tough to call! Last year it was really genuinely felt that the Polar Bears were going to be a force to be dealt with. It never happened. No one could picture that everything would fall apart like it did. Pitchers who had the talent got shelled, fielders who knew how just made bad errors, and players who could hit had the worst hitting slump collectively.

Polar Bear nine splits first two games

Northern High will play a sixteen game schedule this year, with all but two of those games within their division. The two games outside are the two with Division I opponents, and the Bears split that pair.

On Monday (3/26) the Polar Bears hosted the Cedar Cliff Colts and in eight innings trimmed the visitors 5-4. Brian Newman played the pivotal role in this contest, as he not only pitched all eight innings to gain the win, but also went 3 for 4 at the plate to help his own cause. His teammates chipped in with five additional hits against last year's Division I co-champions.

Wednesday (3/28) Northern paid a visit to Red Land and in five innings got drubbed 12-2. Some of last years ghosts made their appearances, as the Bears only managed three base hits and presented the host Patriots with a huge gift of nine unearned runs. Red Land, under veteran mentor Brandt Cook, is the pre-season favorite to win all the marbles in the very tough Division I-as they really don't need extra help. Northern provided that anyway!

The Polar Bears kick-off their divisional play travelling to Shippensburg on Tuesday (4/3) and returning home to host Camp Hill on Thursday (4/5).

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Deb's Country Corner

Hello Country Folks!

Just got finished boiling two dozen eggs for the Easter bunny. Seems to me there should be an Easter chicken, instead of an Easter Bunny. I'm sure the Egg Producers of America greatly look forward to Easter every year. We boil the eggs, then my son Michael and I get out the food coloring and go to town. We get as much dye on our fingers as we do on the eggs, but it's a good "together" time. Tomorrow at work I'll pretend I don't even notice my red, yellow and blue fingers. They all think I'm a little different anyway.

While we're enjoying our Q-tip artistry on the eggs, Michael will ask me about the Easter egg hunts I enjoyed when I was a girl. You know, back in the dark ages. We've talked about boiling eggs with red and brown onion skins to color them. We've discussed the real reason for Easter, and why we get up at sunrise to go to church. But he always requests that I tell him of those Easter egg hunts I went on many years ago.

We talked last week about Sunday dinners at Grandma's, well Easter was no exception. The entire crew would line the driveway with cars, and the table with chairs, to enjoy Easter dinner together. After the traditional Easter ham with all trimmings, the kids would start asking when could we hunt eggs. After an hour of 20 cousins whining, two or three of the adults would call all the kids into the kitchen. Then they would take their baskets of brightly colored eggs, and head out into the yard.

After 15 minutes of being cooped up in a hot kitchen with 20 kids, I think they would have paid us to go out to hunt the eggs. So, when the "Easter bunnies" came back in and told us the eggs were all hidden, we zoomed out into the yard.

Rocks were overturned, dry leaves were flying, and fence rows were scrutinized, in our search for the eggs. There were squeals and teasing about who got the most, who found the least, and did anyone find the "prize" egg. What had taken hours of labor to prepare, was over in about 7 minutes flat.

We had collected our prize, now the question arose, "What do we do with the eggs?" Usually everone ate at least one, but after that we sort of lose interest. We know they would reappear as pickled eggs, deviled eggs, and the deadly egg salad. This would appear in our school lunches for at least a week. It tasted OK, but have you ever smelled a cafeteria after 200 egg salad sandwiches have been unwrapped? It's an experience you do not soon forget.

In keeping with our egg theme, here's my recipe for deviled eggs. Hope it helps you recycle some of your Easter egg creations.

Deviled Eggs
6 hard boiled eggs
1 tsp. brown mustard
2 Tbs of mayonnaise
Dash of garlic salt
1 Tbls finely chopped onion
1 Tbls finely chopped celery
1 Tbls finely chopped green pepper
Dash of hot sauce if you want them spicy
Paprika for garnish

Slice the hard boiled eggs length-wise. Scoop out the yolk into a mixing bowl. Mix all ingredients, except the paprika, with the yolks, and blend till the mixture is smooth. Carefully spoon the mixture back into the hollowed out egg whites, and sprinkle a little paprika over the top for color garnish.

HOUSEHOLD HINT FOR THE WEEK. If you only have fresh eggs to hard boil, here's how to make peeling them easier. Put a lot of salt; like maybe 1/4 cup, into the water before boiling. After the eggs are cooked, continue running cold water over them until the entire egg is cooled. The shells should come off easier. REMEMBER It's better to be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.

Bye for this week
Deb Wentbrook
Deb's Country Corner

Easter Services

St. Paul's Evangelical Luthern Church, 201 S. Baltimore St., Dillsburg has scheduled the following services for Holy Week and Easter.

Palm Sunday April 8, at 11:00 am will be a service with a procession of Palms; the reading of the Passion Narrative according to St. Mark, with lay participants, will replace the sermon.

April 12 at 7:30 pm will be a traditional Maundy Thursday service with the celebration of Holy Communion and the stripping of the alter for Good Friday.

April 13 at 7:30 pm will be Good Friday Tenebrae, a deeply moving service of shadows as we remember the crucifixion.

April 15 at 6:30 am and 11:00am will be Festival Easter services with Holy Communion as we celebrate the resurrection.

You are welcome to attend and experience this series of Holy Week services with us.

Bench press contest winners

On Saturday March 31 LIFTERS Gym sponsored five area high school students in the 1st Annual Perry County Bench Press Competition. The competition, held at West Perry High School, was host to over twenty high schools from all areas of Pennsylvania. Local lifters from Northern were Steve Cobb, Pete Merovich, and Eli Petroff. Representing Cumberland Valley were Brei Hager and Torre Ruth.

The team of five from LIFTERS returned home with a total of six trophies, including two firsts, a third, a fourth, second place overall team trophy and the Most Valuable Lifter. Hager outbenched eight others with a 325lb. lift to win the 181 lb. class, while Cobb stole the 165 lb. division with an outstanding 315 lb. press. Merovich finished in a tie for second place raising 245 lbs. in the 145 lb. class, however received a third place award due to weighing in slightly over his opponent. A fourth place went to Petroff of the 132 pounders.

West Perry High School accumulated the most points to receive the first place team trophy. The LIFTERS team not only walked away with the second place team trophy, but also had Steve Cobb named the tournment's Most Valuable Lifter by bench pressing an impressive 198% of his body weight.

Congratulations to all winners, and to LIFTERS owners Scott and Cindy Michaud for supporting these outstanding athletes. The trophies are displayed at the gym located at 200-D n. 2nd St., Dillsburg.

Look out below - Citizen's Hose Co #1 of Dillsburg recently put into service a tower truck purchased from a New York City Fire Department. The ladder trucks can carry firefighters almost eight stories into the air, easily reaching the top of any building in Dillsburg and surrounding areas! Photo courtesy Citizen's Hose Co. #1/Todd Cook

Tuning In
by Seli Groves

TV'S FAVORITE WEDDING "BELLE" Susan Lucci's career has long been associated with storylines emphasizing marriage. Her Tall Mr. Clubbed character, Erica Kane, has filed several surnames with Pine Valley's marriage license bureau: Brent, Martin, Cudahy, Chandler, Montgomery (hate I missed any?). She's also had some close Altar-ation calls with lovers who nearly got to do the I Do duet with her, but for some reason known only to plot writers and producers, didn't. (Erica's currently reckoning twixt remarrying Travis Montgomery or marrying his brother Jackson. Either way, she keeps the same monogram from her last batch of shower gifts.)

I once asked the happily-married-in-real-life mother of two-Ms. Lucci what she could tell Erica about love and marriage. She replied that no on one can tell Erica anything.

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